

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
2:00 p.m.

ADDENDUM ITEMS

3. PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

3.13 Falun Dafa Day

Councillor Earlene MacMullin (See page 3)

3.14 National Police Week

Councillor Steve Gillespie (See page 4)

3.15 Access Awareness Week

Councillor Steve MacNeil (See page 5)

5. BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Committee of the Whole – May 6, 2025:

d) **CBRM Regional Transportation Strategy:** Mayor Cecil P. Clarke (See page 6)

e) **Water Bills:** Councillor Kim Sheppard-Campbell (See page 14)

f) **Dangerous Unsightly and Derelict Buildings:** Councillor Steven MacNeil (See page 16)

g) **Street Light Policy:** Councillor Steven MacNeil (See page 18)

h) **Community Litter:** Councillor Steven MacNeil (See page 20)

ADJOURNMENT



PROCLAMATION

Falun Dafa Day

WHEREAS:

Falun Dafa is a peaceful cultivation system, following the principals of truth, compassion, benevolence, and forbearance, which provides an excellent way of relieving stress, strengthening physical health, and promoting moral standards and social stability; and

WHEREAS:

Falun Dafa is celebrated in over 80 countries and brings physical and spiritual peace to people around the world and thus benefited our neighbourhoods and the whole society since its public introduction in May, 1992; and

WHEREAS:

this year, Falun Dafa is celebrating 33 years of contributing to society, as widely recognized and honoured around the world

**BE IT THEREFORE
RESOLVED:**

that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 13th, 2025, as “**Falun Dafa Day**” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Earlene MacMullin - CBRM District #2

May 13th, 2025



PROCLAMATION

National Police Week

WHEREAS:

National Police Week began in 1970 as a way for police to connect with their communities and to increase awareness about the services they provide; and

WHEREAS:

police agencies across the country, through the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, unite annually in a campaign to raise awareness and understanding between police and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS:

the theme – “Committed to Serve Together” – acknowledges the partnerships and collaboration that form the cornerstone of effective crime prevention and public safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS:

the Cape Breton Regional Police is committed to serve and protect the CBRM, as a full-service agency with the resources and skills to ensure public safety, and to build safe and healthy communities through leadership, partnership and engagement, Serving With You – For You.

BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED:

that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 11th to 17th, 2025, as “**National Police Week**” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Steve Gillespie – District #4

May 13th, 2025



PROCLAMATION

Access Awareness Week

WHEREAS:

the week of May 25th to May 31st, 2025, is recognized as Access Awareness week; and

WHEREAS:

Access Awareness Week aims to celebrate achievements made both by and for people with disabilities in the areas of accessibility, transportation, housing, employment, recreation, education, and communication; and

WHEREAS:

the theme for Access Awareness Week 2025, “Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action,” emphasizes the significance of empowering persons with disabilities to advocate for their rights and participate actively in civic life; and

WHEREAS:

Access Awareness Week promotes the inclusion of all Nova Scotians with disabilities as full citizens within our communities and through public awareness, community partnerships and education, this campaign aims to foster an environment of equal participation for people with disabilities within the Cape Breton Regional Municipality

BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED:

that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 25th to May 31st, 2025, as “**Access Awareness Week**” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Steven MacNeil - CBRM District #8

May 13th, 2025

Excerpt: DRAFT Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 6, 2025

CBRM Regional Transportation Strategy

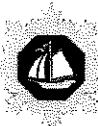
Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that a recommendation be made to Council, to request the Province of Nova Scotia, through Link Nova Scotia, to conduct a comprehensive Regional Transportation Strategy for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, and surrounding Eastern Region, to address transportation issues and opportunities to support the region's population growth complementing the Halifax Regional Municipality strategy for a prosperous Nova Scotia.

Discussion

Transportation authorities and strategies, the go-forward with council involvement including process and collaboration in next steps in operating lines from airport, seaport and on land, mandate and stakeholder participation, impacts to services and the region of CBRM were discussed.

Motion Carried



City Hall
320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Councillor Agenda Request Form

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm seven days before the meeting)	Late Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon the day before the meeting)	Request from the Floor: (New Business) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Announcement- Referral- Submit Petition- Notice of Motion
Date of Council Meeting:		
Subject: CBRM Regional Transportation Strategy		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
To request the Province of Nova Scotia, through Link Nova Scotia, to conduct a comprehensive Regional Transportation Strategy for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, and surrounding Easter Region, to address transportation issues and opportunities to support the region's population growth complimenting the Halifax Regional Municipality strategy for a prosperous Nova Scotia.		
Rationale:		
The passage of Bill No. 24, in part, establishing Link Nova Scotia builds on the success of the JRTA (Joint Regional Transportation Agency) with a revised scope and mandate.		
The CBRM's growth and prosperity-focused mandate necessitates the need for its own Transportation Strategy. The municipality is committed to renewed collaboration for the provision of transportation solutions, improved outcomes, and supporting Nova Scotia's regional development strategic initiatives.		
The CBRM is in concurrence with the objects for Link Nova Scotia as delineated in Section 7 of the Act.		
Section 7: 5 The objects of the Agency are to (a) conduct comprehensive reviews of all aspects of transportation associated with the Region including roads, bridges, highways, bike lanes, buses, ferries, rail, airports and ports for the purpose of creating a regional transportation plan to ensure (i) a regional approach to transportation consistent with Government priorities and the Region's growth and development, and (ii) the safe, efficient and coordinated movement of people and goods; (b) promote and facilitate coordinated decision-making in the Region across all levels of government respecting transportation planning, including		

policies, programs, projects and other initiatives;

(c) coordinate, plan, develop and implement, in co-operation with all levels of government, a regional transportation system for the movement of people and goods to support sustainable growth in the Region;

(d) promote and facilitate the identification, protection and preservation of transportation corridors; and

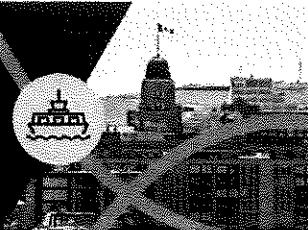
(e) conduct any other activities deemed necessary to fulfill the intent of this Act in accordance with the regulations.

Outcome Sought:

For the CBRM to become aligned and integrated with the Province of Nova Scotia's economic growth and prosperity strategy and plans, including a CBRM Regional Transportation Strategy.

<i>Mayor Cecil P. Clarke Date</i>	<i>Received by Clerk's Department (date):</i>
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What is the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA)?



The JRTA

Provincial Crown Corporation

Created in Fall 2021 (Bill 61) to address transportation issues associated with rapid growth in Halifax and surrounding communities.

Mission

Championing regional collaboration to advance transportation solutions through joint planning, partnerships, data-driven analysis, and strategic investments.

Mandate

Plan for all modes of transportation consistent with the region's growth and development to ensure the safe, efficient, and coordinated movement of people and goods.

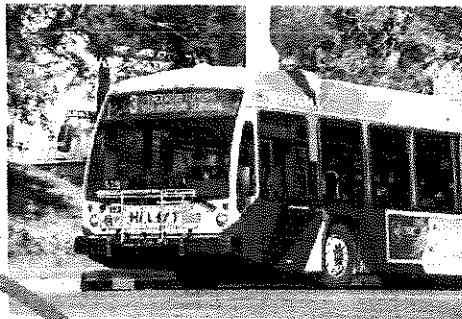
Collaboration & Partners

The first of its kind in Atlantic Canada, the JRTA sits in a unique position to work across jurisdictions and levels of government to take a comprehensive approach to transportation planning.

This includes our Core Partners:



Associate Partner:



Why is transportation important?

Transportation plays a significant role in the day-to-day lives of all Nova Scotians.



It enables access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.



It allows for the movement of goods to support people and the economy.



It fosters independence and can help address issues of isolation and social and economic exclusion.



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Learn more at jrt.ca

Vision, Goals & Principles



Vision

Nova Scotians have a safe, efficient, equitable, and resilient regional transportation system. Our people and communities are healthy, connected, and prosperous, powering a strong regional economy.



Goals

What do we want the plan to achieve?



Strengthen regional connections

Travel between communities and to regional destinations, regardless of mode or trip purpose is safe, easy, and enjoyable. A realistic range of affordable and sustainable transportation options are available that lower household costs, reduce emissions and car dependency, and enhance social connectivity.



Enable efficient and sustainable goods movement

Essential corridors for moving goods locally and regionally are developed, preserved, and well maintained to enable the reliable movement of goods and support economic development and trade.



Lead strategic investments, alignment, and implementation

Infrastructure decision-making and service delivery is cost effective, integrated, and efficient. Actions included in the plan are ambitious yet achievable, maximizing their potential to be funded and built.



Coordinate and collaborate on sustainable land use

All orders of government work to align transportation and land use across departments and initiatives. The regional transportation system supports environmentally and fiscally sustainable development, recognizing the different needs of health urban, suburban, and rural communities.



Develop a future-ready regional transportation system

The transportation system is resilient and adaptable, able to respond to changing trends, uncertainty, and climate change. There is consideration for technological advancements, societal changes, and the long-term needs of the system.

Principles

All aspects of the planning process are guided by six principles:

Accessibility • Equity • Sustainability • Collaboration • Resiliency • Well-being



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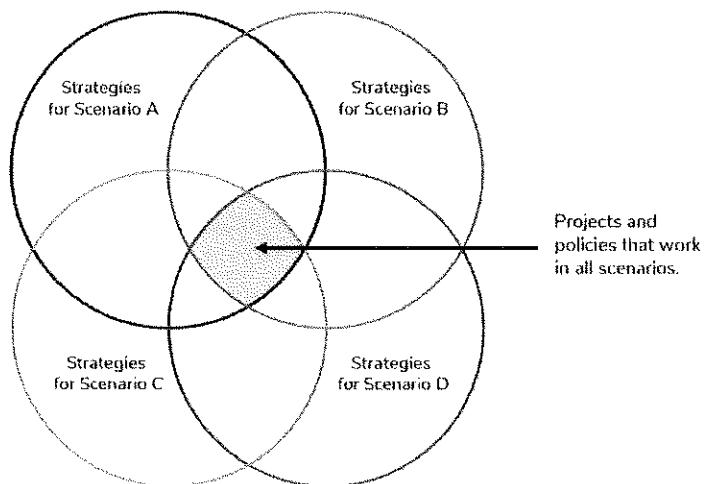
Learn more at jrt.ca

Scenario Planning

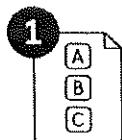


Approach

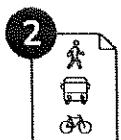
Testing the transportation system in these different futures will help us figure out what strategies make the most sense, and will be most successful, across a range of possible futures.



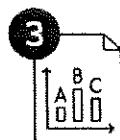
Process



Develop scenarios



Identify transportation projects and policies



Evaluate projects and policies in each scenario



Shape in-depth analysis using preliminary results

The scenarios are:



Fictional but plausible descriptions of the future



Designed to stress test the transportation system in different ways

The scenarios are not:



A desired future state or vision for the province



Trying to predict what will happen but instead cover a wider range of future possibilities

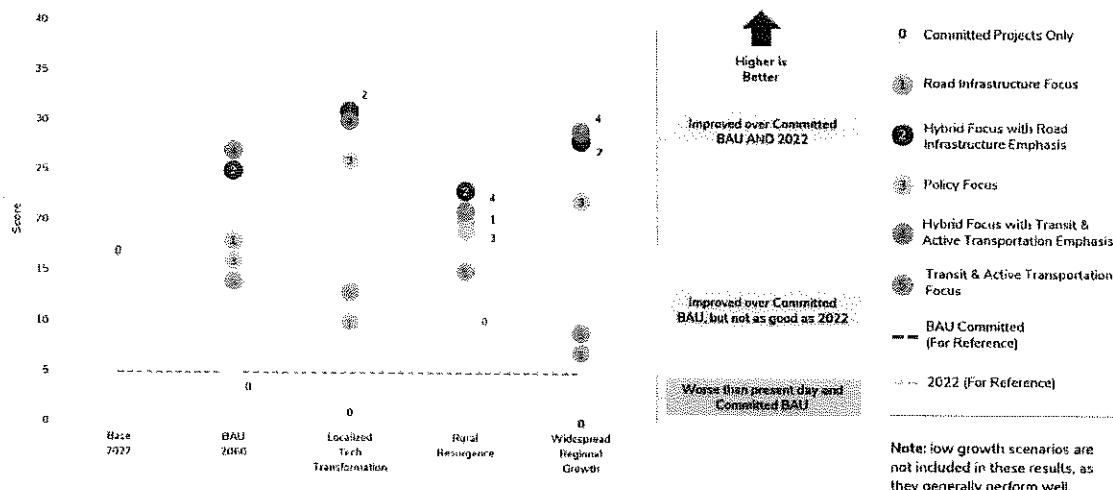
Conceptual Projects & Policies

Thematic Bundles

With input from our partners, working groups, and the public, we have developed a list of projects and policies that can respond to the challenges presented by external factors. For ease of modelling, those policy and infrastructure interventions have been grouped into thematic bundles. This table provides a sample of the projects and policies being evaluated.

Bundle:	Icon	Description	Definition:	Projects currently under construction, funded, or likely to be funded.	Major road projects mostly identified through previous plans and studies.	Some major road projects, combined with moderate transit and active transportation projects and transportation policies.	Less emphasis on road transit or active transportation projects and more emphasis on transportation policies.	Transit and active transportation projects mostly identified through previous plans and studies, combined with moderate road projects and some transportation policies.	Major transit and active transportation projects, some which have been studied previously and others that have not.
0. Committed Projects		1. Road Infrastructure Focus		2. Hybrid Focus with Road Infrastructure Emphasis		3. Policy Focus		4. Project Focus with Transit & Active Transportation Emphasis	
Examples:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highway Twinning (101, 103, 107) Regional Centre AAA Improvements Mackay Bridge rehabilitation with active transportation (AT) facilities Port Rail improvements (goods movement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mackay Bridge replacement Third harbour crossing Highway 102 improvements Highway 113 Regional AT network improvements Shannon Park Ferry Regional transit services Enhanced transit service frequency and reliability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mackay Bridge replacement with AT facilities Highway 113 Regional AT network improvements Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Transit-oriented development Regional AT network improvements Enhanced transit service frequency and reliability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cost of parking Reduced transit fares Promotion of e-bikes and e-scooters Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Regional transit service with transit priority Regional AT network improvements Enhanced transit service frequency and reliability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third harbour crossing and Mackay Bridge replacement with transit priority and AT Highway 102 improvements BRT Regional transit service with transit priority Regional AT network improvements Enhanced transit service frequency and reliability 				
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third harbour crossing and Mackay Bridge replacement with transit priority and AT Highway 102 improvements BRT Regional transit service with transit priority Regional AT network improvements Enhanced transit service frequency and reliability

Preliminary Results



Key Takeaways

Bundle Performance

- There is no one solution. Bundles 1 and 5 are not as effective as the multi-pronged Bundles 2, 3, and 4, though this does vary by location.
- Bundles 2, 3, and 4 are more impactful as policy solutions have more significant, network-wide impacts compared to infrastructure projects, whose impacts are more localized.
- Committed projects only are not enough to achieve plan goals.

Other Considerations

- Opportunity for more active transportation trips.
- Effectiveness of high order transit depends on strength of local transit connections and development patterns.
- Autonomous vehicles have significant impacts on congestion in Local Tech Transformation & Widespread Regional Growth Scenarios (even with new infrastructure).

Next Steps



In-Depth Analysis
Continued evaluation of projects and policies.



Implementation Strategy
Exploring funding models and partnerships.



Draft Plan

Excerpt: DRAFT Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 6, 2025

Water Bills

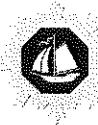
Motion

Moved by Councillor Sheppard-Campbell, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that a recommendation be made to Council to direct staff to produce a document explaining the formula in which water/wastewater is calculated and billed to residents of CBRM and this be included in the next CBRM mailout.

Discussion

Discussion took place on how and why changes were made to wastewater billing, and the need for explanation to residents.

Motion Carried



City Hall
320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Councillor Agenda Request Form

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Date of Council Meeting: May 6, 2025		
Subject: Water Bills		
Motion for Council to Consider:	I would like to make a motion for staff to produce a document explaining the formula in which water/waster-water is calculated and billed to residents of CBRM. I would like this to be included in the next CBRM mailout.	
Rationale:	Each councillor has been receiving numerous emails and phone calls with questions regarding Water bills. 311 are also receiving many inquiries.	
Outcome sought: is that residents have clear and precise information on how their water bills are formulated, therefore inquiries will be minimized.		
<i>Date</i> April 28,2025 Kim Sheppard-Campbell	<i>Received by Clerk's Department (date):</i>	

Excerpt: DRAFT Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 6, 2025

Dangerous Unsightly and Derelict Buildings

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), to direct staff to review the Minimum Standards By-law (M-100) and the Vacant and Derelict Buildings By-law (V-300), complete a jurisdictional scan and review of current best practices, and report back to Council with recommendations and updated by-law options for consideration as part of the ongoing policy/bylaw review.

Discussion

The length of time to have dangerous buildings and properties addressed along with challenges, options for billing, vacant properties and demolition costs and selection process, bylaws, tax penalties, provincial regulations, commercial and residential vacancy tax penalty, was discussed.

Motion Carried



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320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

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Date of Council Meeting: May 8, 2025

Subject: Dangerous Unsightly, and Derelict buildings.

Motion for Council to Consider: Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), to direct staff to review the Minimum Standards By-law (M-100) and the Vacant and Derelict Buildings By-Law (V-300), complete a jurisdictional scan and review of current best practices, and report back to Council with recommendations and updated by-law options for consideration as part of the ongoing policy/bylaw review.

Rationale: The Cape Breton Regional Municipality's current legislative framework does not adequately address the amount of dangerous, unsightly, and derelict buildings. Cape Breton Regional Municipality requires effective tools for timely management of unsightly, dangerous, and derelict buildings.

Outcome Sought:

To ensure this item is include in the ongoing reviews.

*Steven MacNeil District 8 Councillor
Date April 28, 2025*

Received by Clerk's Department (date):

Excerpt: DRAFT Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 6, 2025

Street Light Policy

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Parsons, that a recommendation be made to Council, to direct staff to review the CBRM's street light policy, perform a jurisdictional scan of best practices, and report options back to Council as part of the ongoing policy reviews.

Motion Carried



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Date of Council Meeting: May 6, 2025

Subject: Street Light Policy

Motion for Council to Consider: The CBRM Mayor and Council will direct staff to review the CBRM's street light policy, perform a jurisdictional scan of best practices, and report new options back to Council as part of the ongoing policy reviews.

Rationale: The Cape Breton Regional Municipality's current street light policy leaves gaps in service and offers limited adaptability for certain circumstances (example: intersections along Louisbourg Highway). New technology, like solar lighting, or new cost-sharing agreements could be considered.

Outcome Sought: To ensure this item is included in the ongoing review.

*Steven MacNeil District 8 Councillor
Date April 22, 2025*

Received by Clerk's Department (date):

Excerpt: DRAFT Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 6, 2025

Community Litter

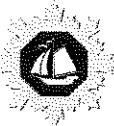
Motion

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Parsons, that a recommendation be made to Council to direct staff to review the by-laws, policies, and resource requirements to improve enforcement of anti-litter policies and by-laws as part of the ongoing policy review.

Discussion

Help received from community groups and individuals to clean up and address litter issues, litter strategy, ongoing initiatives to address litter in other communities and provinces, and a future council workshop were discussed.

Motion Carried



City Hall
320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

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Date of Council Meeting: May 6, 2025		
Subject: Community litter		
Motion for Council to Consider: The CBRM Mayor and Council will direct staff to review by-laws, policies, and resource requirements to improve enforcement of anti-litter policies and by-laws as part of the ongoing policy review.		
Rationale: The Cape Breton Regional Municipality's current legislative framework needs to be updated to enforce adequate commercial waste facilities, prevent illegal dumping, and strengthen anti-littering policies/by-laws.		
Outcome Sought: To ensure this item is included in the onoging review.		
<i>Steven MacNeil District 8 Councillor</i> Date April 22, 2025	<i>Received by Clerk's Department (date):</i>	

